(c) if so, what measures are contemplated by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) As per information received from the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Labour Department enforces labour laws in factories, shops, and commercial establishments and therefore, employment of domestic servants does not come within the jurisdiction of Labour Department.

The issue regarding amendment of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 to make it more stringent and effective, was discussed in the State Labour Ministers' Conference held in July, 1997. Important suggestions made in the Conference to make the Act more stringent include (i) making the offence a cognizable one; (ii) making the penalities more stringent and deterrent; and (iii) the responsibility as to the proof of age of a child being made that of the employer. Action has already been initiated in this regard.

Amendment of Payment of Bonus Act

1354. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to amend the Payment of Bonus Act to enlarge the coverage and ceiling limit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The proposal to amend the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 so as to raise the eligibility limit and calculation ceiling is under consideration of the Government.

Displacement of Labour

1355. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the widespread belief as was expressed by Director General of ILO in the UNCTAD Conference held in Bangkok that the re-structuring of Industries as part of globalisation and liberalisation is leading to large scale displacement of labour, particulary, in the developing countries;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereon;

(c) whether Government are planning any comprehensive social security legislation in the light of this; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Government are aware of the presentation made by the Director General of the ILO on 15th Feb., 2000 in the UNCATAD Conference at Bangkok wherein he, *inter alia* stated that structural adjustment programmes in many developing countries had ended up increasing poverty and insecurity.

(b) to (d) Globalisation is providing enormous new opportunities but there are many reasons for concern also. Economic activities have informalised and jobs become more precarious in a search for competitiveness. Inequality has widened both within and between countries. Unstable global financial systems have generated crisis with enormous social costs in terms of unemployment and poverty. However, globalisation is no a policy option, it is a reality. Taking all these factors into consideration Government are trying through policies and programmes to minimise the social cost of globalisation. The existing social security legislations such as Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act and Employees State Insurance Act cover by and large the entire workforce in the organized sector. However, it may not be feasible at this stage of development for the Government to provide unemployment benefit to those who are unemployed in the rural and urban informal and formal sectors.

Equal wages of contract labourers

1356. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contract labours working in Central Public Sector are not getting any statutory benefit because of the confusion created on appropriate Government;

(b) whether Indian Labour Conference and Standing Committee on Labour has recommended to amend the Act for change of the definition of Appropriate Government; and

(c) whether contract labours in public sector and private sector are not getting the equal wages and other benefits equivalent to the benefits and wages of regular employees although they are doing the same work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Indian Labour Conference recommended that the powers of the Central Government as 'Appropriate Government' under the Contract Labour